

LOCAL NEWS.

Periodic inconvenience has been occasioned to those residents of the country bordering on the Potomac, whose means of travelling depend on the river route, by the late extreme irregularity of the trips of the Baltimore boats. Though these lines do not depend solely for their support upon the patronage of the planters along the banks of the Potomac, still the sum collected from them during the year is no inconsiderable amount, and they at least deserve to be notified at what time the boats will be withdrawn, in order that they may make corresponding arrangements. For the last three weeks parties down the river have remained at the different landings days and nights together, awaiting the arrival of the boats in vain. On Sunday a large company congregated at Boyds Hole Landing, and waited therefor the Columbia until Monday morning, when, no boat being in sight, a portion of them chartered a row boat and came up as far as Aquia creek, where they took passage on the Keyport for this city. The Express we understand is to run as long as the weather permits, but passengers will derive no advantage from her trips unless she responds to signals from the shore.

During the good old times before the war, the SOUP HOUSE, in Alexandria, was a famous institution. It was supported, under the control of the market master, assisted by his major domo, Spinx, by contributions from the citizens of the city and surrounding country, and by appropriations from the city treasury; and daily was issued from its hospitable doors to the poor abundant supplies of rich and well flavored broth. But times have sadly changed, the soup house is now occupied by one who plies there the barber's trade; the citizens who formerly contributed so liberally to its support have now, with few exceptions, barely sufficient to furnish their own families with a plate of soup, and if the finances of the corporation are now so low, that even a limited number of feet of hose, to keep us from being burnt to a crisp one of these nights cannot be purchased, surely no money can be spared for the purpose of giving hungry people soup!

ACCIDENT AT THE ARSENAL.—We mentioned in yesterday's Gazette the dreadful accident at the Washington Arsenal. The men were busily engaged in opening two boxes of case-shot which had just been carried into the bomb building, it having been the practice there to carry in only about two boxes at a time, taking care to clean up well before taking in others.—It is supposed that the explosion was caused by the accidental discharge of one of these shot when being taken from the box. Every man engaged in the building at the time was killed, nine in number, and several were badly wounded. The shock caused by the explosion was felt in every part of the city, and the report was actually deafening. Windows of dwellings were broken by the shock as far up in the city as Virginia avenue.

On Saturday afternoon a hack was driven to the Lombard Street Infirmary, Baltimore, in which was seated a man apparently 45 years of age, genteely dressed in a suit of Confederate gray. He was delirious. At times, upon being questioned, he would murmur the name of Atwell, and again the name of a merchant, but nothing could possibly be gained as to his identity. He died during the night. From inquiries made of the merchant above referred to, it is supposed that the name of the deceased was Atwell, and that he was from Westmoreland county, Va., and recently in the Southern army.

ADVERTISING.—P. T. Barnum, whose success in life has been due solely to advertising, knows that advertising is the genuine lamp of Aladdin and the true open-sesame. He says: "Advertising is to a genuine article what manure is to land—it largely increases the product. Thousands of persons may be reading your advertisement while you are eating or sleeping, or attending to your business; hence public attention is attracted, new customers come to you, and, if you render them a satisfactory equivalent for their money, they continue to patronize you and recommend you to their friends."

The navigation of the C. & O. Canal is closed for the season, and it is not expected that it will be resumed until spring. A number of boats laden with coal are above the Aqueduct bridge, waiting to be unloaded, after which they will be laid up for the season. But few vessels are now in Georgetown, nearly all of which are loading with coal for Eastern ports.

The 195th regiment infantry, Ohio volunteers, recently stationed at the Soldiers' Rest, in this city, arrived in Baltimore Saturday night, about 9 o'clock, over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, en route for Columbus, Ohio, to be mustered out of service.

POLICE REPORT.—There were no cases worth reporting, either at the Mayor's or Magistrates' office this morning.

There will be a vacancy to fill a vacancy in the Magistracy of the Fourth Ward to-morrow.

THOMAS CORWIN, of Ohio, died yesterday in Washington. He was a man of note in his day, of great eloquence and considerable power. He had been Representative in Congress, U. S. Senator, Secretary of the Treasury, and Minister to Mexico.

The Secretary of State publishes to-day an official proclamation, announcing the fact that the Constitutional Amendment abolishing slavery has been ratified by three-fourths of the States, and is now to all intents valid.

The House of Representatives has passed a resolution declaring that the congressional test oath will not be dispensed with.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, yesterday, the bill to amend the charter of the Fire Insurance Company of Alexandria, was passed.

In the House of Delegates it was resolved that the Committee on Roads, &c., be instructed to enquire into the expediency of reporting a bill authorizing the Winchester and Potomac Railroad Company to extend its road to some point at or near Strasburg, to connect with the Manassas road.

A resolution appointing a committee to consider the legislation necessary in regard to the freed negroes, was referred.

STAY LAW.

A very important bill was introduced yesterday into the House of Delegates providing for staying the collection of debts for a limited period. It provides that while the act remains in force, no execution, attachment or other process to compel the payment of money, or the sale of property for that purpose, shall be issued, or, if heretofore issued, shall be proceeded with; nor shall there be any sale under a deed of trust, mortgage, pledge, or other security, nor under any judgment, decree, or order for the payment of money, except in cases hereafter provided for, until the 1st day of January, 1868. This, however, shall not apply to any case in which the debt or liability sought to be enforced was contracted or incurred since the 2nd day of April, 1865, or in which the Commonwealth is the creditor or party beneficially entitled; or in which the owner of the property proceeded against is a non-resident of the State of Virginia; but no security or undertaking of any sort, the consideration of which is a debt contracted or liability incurred prior to the 2nd day of April, 1865, shall, though executed or assumed after that day, be considered as a debt contracted or liability incurred after that day within the meaning of this act.

In regard to the interest upon debts the bill provides that upon all debts contracted prior to the said second day of April, 1865, and payable, or on which interest is payable, before the first of January, 1866, there shall be paid on the 1st day of January, 1867, and on the 1st day of January of each succeeding year, while this act shall remain in force, a sum equal to the interest for one year on the principal debt; and also on the amount of interest due and in arrear on the 1st day of January, 1866, or on so much of each as shall remain unpaid.—Where debt or interest thereon does not become payable until after the 1st day of January, 1866, interest from the time of payment, or from the time from which interest is payable, shall be paid on the said debt on the next succeeding 1st day of January, and one year's interest shall be paid thereon on each succeeding 1st day of January while the act remains in force.

It is also provided that nothing in this act shall be construed as impairing the ordinary jurisdiction of courts of equity.

GOLD.

NEW YORK, December 19.—Gold, 146½.

MARINE LIST.

PORT OF ALEXANDRIA, DECEMBER 19.

ARRIVED.

Schr. Sallie, Skinner, Mattawoman, Corn, Thomas Perry.
Schr. Billup Seaman, King, Piscataway, Grain, Thomas Perry.
Schr. Hamilton, Maddux, Chickamuxen, Corn, Thomas Perry.
Schr. Kent Hall, Welch, Port Tobacco, Grain, Thomas Perry.
Sloop, Annie Howard, Clarke, Machodock, Grain, Thomas Perry.

FOR RENT.—THE STORE AND DWELLING HOUSE, No. 18 King st.—A most excellent location for business. Possession given immediately. Enquire of J. H. DE VAUGHN, No. 130, King st. nov. 9—tf

In the Gazette of yesterday evening, under head of "Local News," it is stated that "Night Watchmen Grey and Webb, were this morning dismissed and fined \$2.50, &c., for being drunk and disorderly." Now, I would respectfully ask is there not a mistake in regard to the sentence of the man Webb? Surely a fine of \$2.50 for his complicity in aiding the purpose of his accomplice is something that can hardly be thought of. But perhaps the public are not aware what constituted the charge of "Drunk and Disorderly, Assault and Battery, &c.," against these two officers, (?) as they uproariously proclaimed themselves whilst exhibiting their badge of office to the crowd, who witnessed their exploits on Saturday evening last. Let me, therefore, specify part of their conduct.

Between the hours of 4 and 5 o'clock p. m., on Saturday last, both these men entered my house on King street. Both were what is termed "tight," or at least one was drunk while the other acted so. Gray, after some consultation with his partner, deliberately walked into my private room, where he found my wife nursing her baby. He at once made use of the most disgusting language—seized hold of her, and tried to drag her into the back kitchen. Whereupon, to save the life of her infant in the scuffle, she abandoned it to her colored servant, who ran screaming with it half naked through the yard, and into a neighboring house, and gave the alarm. Meantime, Webb, in order to aid his accomplice, held back, by main force, in my store, my eldest boy; who, upon hearing her screams, struggled to break loose and help her. Fortunately for her at that moment Gray's hold on her arms gave way, tearing with him the whole of the upper part of her clothing. Gray fell down, but was instantly on his feet, and again seized his victim by the hair of the head at the moment she was making for the front door.—Here again she struggled in his grasp, he striking and felling her to the floor, falling heavily over her, upsetting the fire stove and smashing several panes of glass in the door window—my boy all the time battling with Gray, who kept him back. Her screams, however, spurred to frenzy the exertions of the boy, who got away from the "assistant" and grappled Gray, who blasphemously roared to "aid" to shoot the cripple (be it known the boy is a cripple.) Webb again struck at the boy, kicked and tore him, but could not loose him, the boy and woman still fighting their way towards the street door. Upon reaching which her strength gave way, while the Gray (Officer?) dragged her some 20 yards through the gutter; when he was knocked down by a citizen. His grasp from her hair and arm was loosed, and she flew distracted into Mr. Price's Livery Office, pursued by the man, who pulled out of his pocket a weapon, and threatened destruction to any one who would oppose him. However, upon his arrival at the stable his courage calmed, or rather vamoosed, for, all thanks to providence, and honor to the gentleman who met him, he was in a twinkling stretched sprawling on the sidewalk; and in company with his co-night watch secured and lodged in the watch house until yesterday morning, when their cases I presume were attended to by the Mayor.

Such is a summary of the "assault and battery," and now I ask in the name of humanity was that treatment towards a lone and helpless woman, and still helpless crippled boy in their own house equivalent, in the eyes of justice, as far as Webb is concerned, to a fine of \$2.50? If so, save me, ye Gods, from justice, and may Almighty God protect our wives, daughters and helpless children, from the evil designs of such men, as wish to kick, beat and endeavor to violate their sanctity by payment of a fine of \$2.50.

Alexa., Dec. 19—It No. 36, King street.

NEW THEATRE!
H. B. PHILLIPS, Lessee and Manager.

The Manager takes pleasure in announcing to the citizens of Alexandria, that he has prevailed upon the Great

HOLMAN OPERA TROUPE!

to remain for a few nights longer.

This Tuesday Evening, December 19, 1865.

The performance will commence with the play of **THE LOVE SPELL!**

Song.....Miss Julia Holman

Dance.....Miss Ella Palmer

To conclude with

MRS. PARTINGTON.

No Improper Characters admitted.

RATES OF ADMISSION.

Orchestra.....75 cents
Dress Circle.....50 cents
Gallery.....25 cents
1t

IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.—We are now prepared to supply any number of GERMAN LABORERS on a very short notice. For particulars address either

KNOX & SMITH, or

GEO. WASHINGTON.

Agents for the German Laborer's Society,

dec 12—tf

NOTICE.—An elderly citizen of this place, well acquainted with the people in the adjoining counties, and of experience in business, is anxious to obtain a situation in a Commission House, on moderate terms. Apply at this office. dec 19—3t

JOHNSON & CO'S CELEBRATED FORCE PUMPS. for sale by KNOX & SMITH, Sole Agents For Alexandria, Washington and Georgetown. dec 19—tjanl

4,000 FEET MACHINE BELTING of all widths, for sale by KNOX & SMITH. dec 19—tf

WANTED.—A number of two or four horse TEAMS; wagons or carts, to haul WOOD, over a good road. For particulars enquire at this office. dec 14—10t*

RAISINS, CITRON, AND CURRANTS. Whole, half, and quarter boxes RAISINS, also, CITRON and CURRANTS, received to-day, and for sale by J. C. MILBURN, Cor. Cameron and Royal streets, Opposite the Market. dec 16—1w

1866 DIARIES FOR 1866

BOOK AND STATIONARY STORE,

No. 104, King street.

The finest assortment ever offered in this market. Just opened, Steroscopes and Steroscopic Views, a large and well selected stock, embracing the gems of American, English, Swiss and Scotch Scenery, beautifully colored groups, illuminated Views, Statuaries, views on glass, views in Paris, Rome, Venice, Naples, Alpine Scenery, &c., all most appropriate for Christmas presents.

A large lot of Juvenile Books for the holidays, just opened.

A large assortment of fine Work Boxes, in Rosewood and Leather Writing Desks, Reticules, Etique Boxes, Fine Morocco Travelling Bags, Backgammon Boards, Chess Men, Photograph Albums, Pocket Books and Portmonaies, Dominoes, Gold Pens and cases, &c.

Just received another lot of Hymn Books for use in the Presbyterian Church, all sizes, in fine Velvet and Turkey Morocco Binding; Bibles, Prayer Books and Poetical Works, all desirable for Christmas presents.

Almanacs for 1866—a large assortment—Farmer's, Housekeeper's, Old Franklin and Hagerstown, by the dozen or gross.

dec 15— GEORGE E. FRENCH.

BANK OF THE OLD DOMINION, }
ALEXANDRIA, December 11th, 1865.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THIS BANK will be held at their Banking House, on TUESDAY, the 9th day January, 1866. A full attendance is desirable, as business of importance will claim the attention of the meeting, and a board of directors elected. GEO. H. SMOOT, President.

dec 11—2awtjan1&tdt

VALUABLE FARM IN FAIRFAX CO.

FOR SALE.—We are authorized to sell "FARMINGTON," situated in Fairfax county, Va., about 8 miles above the Court House, adjoining the lands of R. H. Cockerille, James Green, and others; containing about 600 acres, of the celebrated red soil. A large portion of the tract heavily wooded. Improvements tolerable. Terms accommodating.

DULANY & BALL, Columbus st., no 25—cott Between King and Prince.

LAND FOR SALE.—I offer for sale a farm of TWO HUNDRED and FORTY ACRES, 3 miles south of Alexandria. The land lies beautifully, with a southern exposure, and is in fine condition, as is evidenced by the growing crops. The outside enclosure is in tolerable order. There is a young peach orchard in full bearing, and other choice fruits.

It may be divided into two farms, with abundance of wood and water on each, with building sites unsurpassed by any in Virginia for beauty of scenery. I know of no place offering greater inducements as a dairy and market farm or vineyard.

Terms accommodating. A credit of four years from the 1st of March, 1866, may be had upon \$4,000 of the purchase money, interest payable annually. For further information apply to the subscriber, No. 52, Washington street, Alexandria, Va.

dec 15—dts W. S. KEMPER.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., December 12, 1865.

THE PARTNERSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN J. Woodville Ashby and John S. Wharton, under the name and style of Ashby & Wharton, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent.

J. WOODVILLE ASHBY. de 14-1w JOHN S. WHARTON.

JOHN S. WHARTON, (successor to Ashby & Wharton,) will receive consignments, and conduct the business of a General Commission Merchant, at the old stand, No. 7, corner of King and Union streets. Particular attention paid to all consignments from the country. de 14—3m

NOTICE.—It having been reported that I intended to give up my Livery Establishment in this place, this is to give notice, that such is not the fact, and that I shall continue my business at No. 28, King street, and ask a continuance of public favor.

I have purchased the National Hotel Stables, in Washington, and shall also carry on business there, where my friends are invited to call. My stock of horses and vehicles is large and of the best. [de 14—1m] JOHN T. PRICE.

"MARTHA WASHINGTON" HAIR RESTORER.—The best thing for the hair in the market. Two articles combined in one. A perfect Hair Restorer and Hair Dresser. Sold by all Druggists. The trade supplied by HENRY COOK, No. 39, King st., Alexandria, Va. Warranted to do all we claim—or money refunded, after using two bottles. Ladies try it, nov 6—3m

LARGEST STOCK OF DRY GOODS IN BALTIMORE. HAMILTON, EASTER & CO., Nos. 199, 201, & 203, BALTIMORE ST., BALTIMORE. Importers, Jobbers, & Retailers of FOREIGN & DOMESTIC DRY GOODS, invite the attention of WHOLESALE & RETAIL BUYERS to their large and varied stock, embracing goods in EVERY DEPARTMENT of the trade. In their WHOLESALE DEPARTMENT, ON THE SECOND FLOOR, of their extensive premises will be found goods suited to the wants of WHOLESALE BUYERS generally,—choice and desirable articles can usually be found with us.

THEIR RETAIL STOCK, on FIRST FLOOR and BASEMENT, will be found one of the most varied and extensive in the country. In both Wholesale and Retail Departments the LOWEST PRICE IS MARKED on every article, so that parties not fully acquainted with the value of goods, can buy from us with confidence.

Baltimore, sep 18—lawtjan1

1,000 BUSHELS HEAVY MIDDINGS,

received and for sale by

dec 14—1w DAVY & HARMON.